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# THE CONTROVERSY

BETWEEN

## GREAT-BRITAIN and her COLONIES Briefly Analyfed.

I. **T**HE Insufficiency of the Argument asserting their being virtually represented, as compared with unincorporate Towns in England, has been already exploded in the Letter signed *Amor Patriæ*, inserted in the *Gazetteer*, 1st of January last, viz. "the Inhabitants of such Towns being many of them, doubtless, legal Electors of County-Members; and otherwise they rest have by their Neighbourhood to, and Connections with legal Voters of the Vicinage, Opportunity of acquiring the Means of giving Instructions to, and influencing the Conduct of, not only their proper County-Members, but those who represent neighbouring Boroughs also; and the future Elections of such Members will always, in some measure, depend on the Influence of even many of those who have no legal Votes themselves, so have they a strong Check on their Conduct; which is not the Case with the Americans, in respect of any one Member in the whole House, not a Man of them depending on the Colonists for his Seat in Parliament, or for their Intrusion."

II. Another evident Reason why the Colonies cannot be justly deemed virtually represented, and in consequence thereof subjected to internal Taxation imposed by Parliament, and why they the Colonies cannot be justly compared with such Towns in Great-Britain, is because the Parliament of Great-Britain cannot impose any internal Tax on the Inhabitants of such Towns, but that in so doing they and every Member thereof would by the same Act tax themselves in the same Proportion, which is a very good Security in favour of such Towns and other Non-Electors in Great-Britain; but which very good Security the Colonies in their present State are entirely destitute of, inasmuch that if they were now to acknowledge a Right in the Parliament to tax them, (although in the present Case in a very small Sum) without their previous or concurrent Consent; in the present Mode of Things there is no Line drawn that bounds that Right, but that the same Parliament might (after so dangerous a Pre-

cedent once adopted) call for any Part of their remaining Fortunes whenever they pleased so to do, without any other Restraint than the Mercy and Benevolence of (in such Case an arbitrary Power over them) and they the Colonists might every Year after be in danger of hearing of a Law (made in Great-Britain some Months before, and wherein they had no Opportunity of pleading for themselves, or of giving their previous or concurrent Consent or Dissent) which Law might for any other Security they could rely on in the present Mode of Things take away a Quarter, a Half, or a larger Part of their Estate, without a Line of any kind of Limitation other than the Will and Power of a Parliament; in such Case Despoties over their whole Fortunes, without their Concurrence or Co-operation, which it appears would be arbitrary in the strongest Point of Light.

III. It therefore appears to me a fair and necessary Conclusion, that Great-Britain must in point of Equity and the just Rights of the Colonists as *Englishmen*, either for ever exempt them from, or never demand any internal Taxes at all, or else a Right of Representation in Parliament must be granted them; which last appears evidently a very salutary Measure, as necessary to prevent Divisions and Misunderstandings, and above all to prevent the Danger of our Enemies thereby in future, as soon as recruited and able, taking advantage thereof (and perhaps sowing the Seeds thereof) in order to disunite and weaken this otherwise Potent Empire, which otherwise being properly united they our Enemies do and will look on with Envy; and may they do so, but utterly in vain, and that for evermore, is my hearty Desire.

AMOR PATRIÆ.

P. S. The Stuart Arbitrary Principles can never be reconciled to the true Genius of the British Constitution, and therefore the sooner the Possessors of such Principles are effectually silenced, the sooner will this Nation be happy.

Idem A. P.

3 March, 1766.

So

The Right Hon. the Earl of Melbourne

Friend

Wm. R. B. Esq.

Arthur Gould Bullen and  
Mr. Stephens.

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Robert Gould Brown and  
his family.

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